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PATENT

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method at a phone-interface device, comprising:

receiving a provisional-alarm report;

determining whether a disarm command has been received subsequent to receipt of the provisional-alarm report;

when a disarm command has not been received before expiration of a period of time, sending a system condition to a monitoring station including seizing a telephone line; ~~and~~

calling the monitoring station via the telephone line; ~~and~~

determining whether the calling element is successful, and when the calling element is not successful, sending the alarm condition to the monitoring station via an alternative communications link; and

determining whether a trouble condition exists at the phone interface device and if it exists, communicating the trouble condition to the control panel via a transmitter located at the phone interface device.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the provisional-alarm report is received via a wireless signal.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the wireless signal is a radio frequency signal.

4-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A phone-interface device, comprising:

a receiver to receive a wireless signal from a control panel, wherein the wireless signal encodes information regarding a system condition;

a transmitter to transmit data via wireless communication about trouble conditions to a receiver at the control panel; and

a phone port to connect to a communications link, wherein the phone port is to dial a telephone number of a monitoring station in response to receiving the wireless signal and the communications link is at least one of an ISDN line and wireless.

5 ~~8~~. (original) The phone-interface device of claim 4 ~~7~~, wherein the communications link is a telephone line.

9-10 (canceled)

6 ~~11~~. (currently amended) A phone-interface device, comprising:

a phone port to draw electrical energy from a phone line, wherein the phone port is part of a premise phone system, and wherein the electrical energy drawn from the phone line is within a current and voltage profile of the premise phone system; and

a transmitter to transmit data via wireless communication about trouble conditions to a receiver at a control panel.

7 ~~12~~. (original) The phone-interface device of claim 6 ~~11~~, further comprising:

an energy storage device, wherein the electrical energy drawn from the phone line charges the energy storage device.

8 ~~13~~. (original) The phone-interface device of claim 7 ~~12~~, wherein the energy storage device is a battery.

9 ~~14~~. (original) The phone-interface device of claim 7 ~~12~~, wherein the energy storage device is a capacitor.

10 ~~15~~. (original) The phone-interface device of claim 7 ~~12~~, wherein the electrical energy is drawn from the phone line during a phone line state of ringing.

11 ~~16~~. (original) The phone-interface device of claim 7 ~~12~~, wherein the electrical energy is drawn while a premise phone is off-hook.

12 ~~17~~. (original) The phone-interface device of claim 7 ~~12~~, wherein the electrical energy is drawn while the phone port checks the line for proper voltages and currents.

13 ~~18~~. (original) The phone-interface device of claim 7 ~~12~~, wherein the electrical energy is drawn while the phone port is dialing.

14 ~~19~~. (original) The phone-interface device of claim 7 ~~12~~, wherein the electrical energy is drawn during a connected call.

15 ~~20~~. (original) The phone-interface device of claim 7 ~~12~~, wherein the electrical energy is drawn after an off-premise call has hung up.

16 ~~21~~. (currently amended) A security system, comprising:

a control panel to receive a sensor event from a security device, to translate the sensor event into a system condition, and to transmit a wireless signal to a phone-interface device, wherein the wireless signal encodes information regarding the system condition; and

a phone-interface device comprising a receiver to receive the wireless signal from the control panel and a transmitter to transmit data via wireless communication about trouble conditions to said control panel receiver, wherein the phone-interface device is packaged separately from the control panel,

wherein the phone-interface device receives direct electric current from an energy storage device.

17 ~~22~~. (original) The security system of claim 16 ~~21~~, wherein the phone-interface further comprises a phone port to connect to a telephone line, wherein the phone port is to dial a telephone number of a monitoring station in response to receiving the wireless signal.

18 ~~23~~. (original) The security system of claim 16 ~~21~~, wherein the control panel receives alternating electric current.

24. (canceled)

~~25~~. (original) The security system of claim ~~24~~, wherein the energy storage device comprises a battery.

~~26~~. (original) The security system of claim ~~24~~, wherein the energy storage device comprises a capacitor.

~~27~~. (original) The security system of claim ~~21~~, wherein the phone-interface device receives electrical power from a telephone line.

~~28~~. (original) The security system of claim ~~21~~, wherein the phone-interface device is mounted in a separate enclosure from the control panel.

~~29~~. (original) The security system of ~~21~~, wherein the phone-interface device is mounted in a separate enclosure from an input device.

~~30~~. (original) The security system of ~~21~~, wherein the phone-interface device is mounted in a separate enclosure from a siren.

~~31~~. (currently amended) A program product comprising a signal-bearing media bearing instructions, which when read and executed by a processor, comprise:

determining whether a trouble condition exists at a phone interface device and if it exists, communicating the trouble condition to a control panel via a transmitter located at the phone interface device;

receiving a provisional-alarm report at the phone interface device;

determining whether a disarm command has been received subsequent to receipt of the provisional-alarm report; ~~and~~

when a disarm command has not been received before expiration of a period of time, sending a system condition to a monitoring station including seizing a telephone line, and calling the monitoring station via the telephone line; and

determining whether the calling is successful, and when the calling is not successful, sending the alarm condition to the monitoring station via an alternative communications link.

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26 ~~32.~~ (original) The program product of claim 25 ~~31~~, wherein the provisional-alarm report is received via a wireless signal.

27 ~~33.~~ (original) The program product of claim 26 ~~32~~, wherein the wireless signal is a radio frequency signal.

34-35. (canceled)